

Appl. No. : 10/665174
Filed : September 17, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently amended) A constriction sleeve for constricting body tissue when applied thereto, the sleeve comprising a generally cylindrical portion and an opening at one end for application to the body tissue, said sleeve further comprising resilient expandable biocompatible material suitable for extended use within a patient, said sleeve further comprising at least one suture aperture extending through the sleeve for affixing said sleeve to the body tissue when in its desired position, and said sleeve further comprising a reinforcement structure, whereby the sleeve may be resiliently expanded to an expanded configuration for application to the body tissue and released to a constricted configuration to constrict the body tissue therein, and wherein one or more of the apertures has a tapered entry configured to guide a suture needle into the aperture.

48.-60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently amended) A constriction sleeve for constricting body tissue when applied thereto, the sleeve comprising a generally cylindrical portion and an opening at one end for application to the body tissue, said sleeve further comprising resilient expandable biocompatible material suitable for extended use within a patient, said sleeve further comprising a reinforcement structure and a suture aperture extending through the sleeve and at least a portion of the reinforcement structure for affixing said sleeve to the body tissue when said sleeve is in its desired position, whereby the sleeve may be resiliently expanded to an expanded configuration for application to the body tissue and released to a constricted configuration to constrict the body tissue therein, and wherein one or more of the apertures has a tapered entry configured to guide a suture needle into the aperture.

62.-65. (Canceled)